




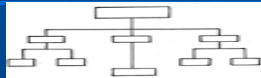
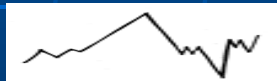
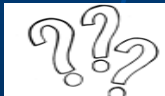


# A Guide to the Critical Thinking Tools

*How parents can use these tools to support and develop critical thinking skills at home*

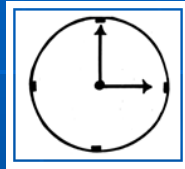


# Thinking tools that support critical thinking

- GATE teachers use the critical thinking tools to extend the state academic content standards.
- These thinking tools are designed to guide thinking to a deeper and more complex level. They provide a means for students to exhibit abstract thinking, and help students to make interdisciplinary connections.
- Use of the thinking tools begins in second grade in order to develop critical thinking skills early in a student's academic career.
- Pictures, used to represent each thinking tool, are posted in GATE cluster classrooms.
- Students are encouraged to label their work with the thinking tools they used.

# Critical thinking tools that support delving deeper

<b>Language of the Discipline</b>	<b>Vocabulary, symbols, and signs used by experts in their field of study</b>	
<b>Details</b>	<b>Features, attributes, factors</b>	
<b>Patterns</b>	<b>Recurring elements, cycles, designs</b>	
<b>Rules</b>	<b>Structure, order, organizational patterns</b>	
<b>Trends</b>	<b>Predictions based on observed patterns</b>	
<b>Unanswered Questions</b>	<b>What questions do I still have?</b>	
<b>Big Ideas</b>	<b>Conclusions based on evidence</b>	
<b>Ethics</b>	<b>Pros and cons, both sides</b>	

# Critical thinking tools that support complex thinking, interdisciplinary connections

<b>Over Time</b>	<b>Change; past, present, future</b>	
<b>Multiple Perspectives</b>	<b>Differing points of view; opinions based on roles and responsibilities</b>	
<b>Across Disciplines</b>	<b>Connections; relationships within and between subject areas</b>	

Ask your child to explain to you how they are using the critical thinking tools in the classroom.

Support use of the critical thinking tools in conversations at home

# Ask Questions While Spending Time Together



What *new idea* did you learn today?

- What *details* would you use to describe this idea?
- How is the new idea *related* to something else you know?
- What *unanswered questions* do you still have about the new idea?



# Ask Questions While Watching Television



- What *patterns* of behavior do you notice in the character?
- How can the character be viewed from *different perspectives*?
- What are some *ethical* considerations portrayed by the character?
- What are the *trends* you noticed in this program?

# Apply the thinking tools to baseball season!



Apply the following to your favorite team or player:

- Identify and justify the five most **important details** about your team or player.
- What **patterns** of play does your team or player repeat?
- What is the **most important rule** in baseball? Justify your answer.
- What **trends or predictions** can you make about your team or player?
- What **questions** do you still have about your team or player?
- How has your team or player **changed over time**?
- Who is an expert on baseball? What is his **opinion** of your team or player?